



THE LEAGUE OF IOWA HUMAN & CIVIL RIGHTS AGENCIES

Volume 2, Issue 2 July 2010

20 Ways to Celebrate 20th Anniversary of the ADA

This issue of the League of Iowa Human & Civil Rights Agencies newsletter will showcase some of the exciting activities and events taking place across Iowa in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a historic piece of federal legislation signed on July 26, 1990, that protects people. In honor of this major anniversary, organizations throughout the state will offer disability-related events and activities as part of a year-long ADA awareness campaign. Partnerships composed of AmeriCorps VISTAs, government agencies, disability organizations, and other private and public sector groups will continue to facilitating efforts to celebrate what the ADA has accomplished and to generate dialogue concerning what it has yet to achieve. While not exhaustive of the entire campaign, the hope of this newsletter focuses on providing ideas and resources on how we can all celebrate this momentous piece of legislation and continue advocating for full inclusion and accessibility in all part of society. From large celebrations and nights at minor league baseball stadiums to signing proclamations and hanging posters about disability awareness, there is much that we can do to educate Iowans about all the protections that ADA provided and the challenges still faced by the disability community.



Inside this issue:

Celebrations for the ADA at Minor League Ballparks	2
Celebrate Iowa Photo Campaign	3
Brought to You by the ADA Sticker Campaign	3
Sioux City Disability Forum	4
Davenport Coffee Talk on Disability Awareness	4
Council Bluffs	4
Week of ADA Activities in Des Moines	5
Voices of the ADA	5
What is the ADA	6
Additional Ideas	6

ADA Iowa Website

As part of the year-long campaign, AmeriCorps VISTA members with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission created a website dedicated to Iowa's celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ADA. The website offers a variety of resources, links, and a calendar of events. If you would like to add your ADA-related events to the calendar, please send them to Shawna at Shawna.Anderson@iowa.gov. If you have resources or links you would like featured on the website, please contact either Crystal Schrader or E.B. DeBruin at Crystal.Schrader@iowa.gov or at Elizabeth.DeBruin@iowa.gov.

ADA Iowa Website:
<http://www.ada-iowa.webs.com>

In addition, you can stay updated about upcoming events and disability news by becoming a fan of the Facebook group, Americans with Disabilities at 20 in Iowa. Once you become a fan, we encourage you to invite all your friends to join too. A second Facebook group, Brought to You by the ADA, showcases the Sticker Campaign described on page 3 of this newsletter.

ADA Celebrations at the Ballpark Across Iowa

Building off the Cedar Rapids Kernels' tradition of holding an ADA Night, Iowa Cubs, Quad Cities River Bandits, Sioux City Explorers, and Waterloo Bucks will each be hosting an ADA Night this summer. Many local human and civil rights commissions partnered with these minor league ballparks to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the ADA.

ADA Night with the Cedar Rapids Kernels: July 17th

The celebrations begins with a picnic at 4:00PM up on the hill by the stadium. Dignitaries and special guests will talk about how far we've come and that we have a ways to go. Then everyone will gather for a unity march to the stadium. Prizes will be awarded for signs and banners celebrating the ADA. The Kernels game will begin at 6:35PM, followed by fireworks. For more info, please contact LaSheila Yates at l.yates@cedar-rapids.org



ADA Celebration with the Waterloo Bucks: July 18th

Come out and watch the game for a good cause. Riverfront Stadium, home of the Waterloo Bucks, will be hosting its ADA Day at the Ballpark, July 18 beginning at 2:00PM with vendor booths, activities, and lunch. The baseball game will begin at 3:05M, where a child with a disability will throw out the first pitch. To learn more about the celebration, please contact Teresa Wasko at twasko@gmail.com.



ADA Night with the Sioux City Explorers: July 20th

Beginning with a tailgate part at 4:30PM in front of the Lewis and Clark Stadium, the Sioux City Explorers, Three Rivers Independent Living Corporation, and the Sioux City Human Rights Commission invites people to come celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 7:05PM game will feature the Sioux City Explorers versus the Sioux Falls Fighting Pheasants. For more information, please contact Ike Rayford at irayford@sioux-city.org.



ADA Night with the Iowa Cubs (Des Moines): July 21st

Starting at 4:30PM, cake and punch will be provided in front of gate D. Also, entertainment, informational tables, and face painting and temporary tattoos for the kids will be available before and during the game! The game begins at 7:05PM. For more information, contact Shawna Anderson at shawna.anderson@iowa.gov.



ADA Night with the Quad Cities River Bandits: July 28th

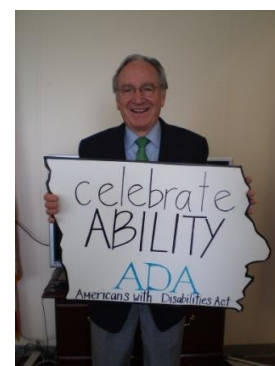
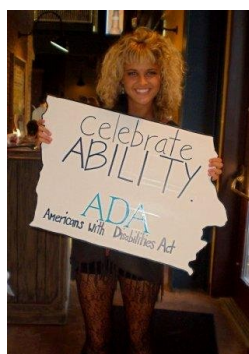
Celebrate the accomplishments of athletes and cheerleaders with disabilities, learn about inclusive sports opportunities in the Quad City area, and see how well your fellow fans do at ADA trivia. The baseball game begins at 6:30PM. For more information, contact Maggie McCoy, 563-333-2768, maggie@bandits.com, or Mike Hoenig, 563-349-3922, mhoenig@q.com.



Celebrate Ability Photo Campaign

As part of the ongoing 20th anniversary celebration of the ADA, Iowa Civil Rights Commission VISTA members coordinated a Celebrate Ability Photo Campaign, which recognized the ADA and served as a photographic network of Iowans who celebrate all who work to remove barriers for individuals with disabilities. By posing for a photo with an Iowa-shaped sign that read "Celebrate ABILITY," groups and individuals publicly showed their support for the ADA, and for persons with disabilities.

A mural of the different pictures will be on display at the ADA 20th anniversary celebration on the West Capitol Terrace on July 24th. The pictures can also be found on the ADA Iowa website and Facebook page. For more information, please contact Shawna Anderson at Shawna.Anderson@iowa.gov.



Brought to You by the ADA Sticker Campaign

The Brought to You by the ADA Sticker Campaign is dedicated to showing how the lives of all Iowans have been improved by the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. By placing stickers on the landscape of Iowa, the Iowa ADA Planning Committee will make visible what often goes unseen and the hidden impact of the ADA on design, public services and so much more. Anyone may order these stickers by going to the ADA Iowa website. Once received, people are encouraged to place the stickers throughout their community wherever they see places, devices, or items people with disabilities use and take photos. The photos can then either be uploaded to a master Flickr account or emailed to ada-iowa@gmail.com where they will be added to an educational slideshow. For more information, please contact E.B. DeBruin at Elizabeth.DeBruin@iowa.gov.



A Sampling of Different Disability Events Taking Place in Iowa

Disability Public Forum: July 14, 2010 (Sioux City)

The Sioux City Human Rights Commission will hold a Disability Forum at 6:30PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The forum will have representatives from various local agencies that deal with disability issues everyday. There will be a short film and a Q & A period. The forum is free to the public and can be viewed on Sioux City's cable public access channel 10. Panel representatives include Karen Mackey - Sioux City Human Rights Commission, Doug Moraveck - Three Rivers Independent Living Corp, Jim Rixner - Siouxland Mental Health Center, Stephanie Brown - Opportunities Unlimited, and Jim Grover - Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. For more information, please contact Ike Rayford at irayford@sioux-city.org.



Disability Awareness Coffee Talk: July 15, 2010 (Davenport)



The Davenport Civil Rights Commission will present a coffee talk on disability awareness in Room 1006 of the Kahl Building, located at 326 W. 3rd St. The program is free and open to the public. The coffee talk will address proper terms to use for people with disabilities, some dos and don'ts when interacting with people with disabilities, the different types of disabilities, basic disability etiquette, and stigmas placed on people with various disabilities. At the end, there will be time for questions from participants. For more information, please contact Heather Roberts at 563-326-7888 or civil02@ci.davenport.ia.us. This event is co-Sponsored by the IL/IA Center For Independent Living & Eastern Iowa Community College.

Chalk the Walk: July 16, 2010 (Council Bluffs)

The Council Bluffs Civil Rights Commission and the Bluffs Arts Council are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with a "CHALK WALK." Certain Bayliss Park sidewalks will be set aside for students (Grades K-12) to demonstrate their artistic abilities by creating visual art using only the colored chalk provided. Individuals will be given a 4' by 4' area and groups an 4' by 8' area to draw their artwork. Students will have from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM to complete their individual or group projects with judging from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM. The public will be invited to view the artists while they work. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place recognitions will be awarded in three individual categories: Grades K-4; 5-8; 9-12. Groups from schools, churches, scout troupes, clubs, teams, or neighborhoods will be divided into grades K-4; 5-8; 9-12. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place recognitions will be given in each of the group categories. The central theme of all artwork is the Americans Disabilities Act. Face painting available for all kids while they wait for judging! Free showing of Astro Boy following the art contest, courtesy of Arts Council's Movies in the Park series! If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Marfisi at smarfisi@councilbluffs-ia.gov.



three
with
judg-
Bluffs

Week of Activities in Des Moines to Celebrate the 20th Anniversary

ADA Night with the Iowa Cubs: July 21st

the Iowa Cubs will host an ADA Night at the Ballpark. Beginning at 4:30pm, there will be a pre-game reception and a performance by the New Visions Dance Troupe on the grassy area in front of Gate D. Before and during the game, disability organizations will have tables at each gate, handing out information and ADA temporary tattoos. Very Special Arts Iowa (VSA) will provide face painting and spin-art.

Booth at the Downtown Farmers Market: July 24th

VSA and the Iowa Civil Rights Commission will team up for a booth at the Downtown Des Moines Farmers Market. We anticipate a visit from Senator Harkin sometime during the Farmers Market. Children will be able to decorate bags filled with information about services offered for people with disabilities and their families.

ADA Anniversary Celebration: July 24th

Also, on July 24th, from 10:00AM – 2:00PM, the ADA Planning Committee and the VISTA Civil Rights Project of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission is holding anniversary celebration on the West Terrace of the Capitol. Senator Tom Harkin, one of the original signers of the ADA will be speaking, along with other invited officials and disability leaders. This will be a free, family-friendly event open to the public. Attendees may pick up information about disability organizations and engage in interactive, educational activities for all ability levels. VSA Iowa artists will be providing art and entertainment. The Olmstead Consumer Taskforce, Principal Financial Group, the Iowa Department of Human Services, and Relay Iowa will serve as sponsors for this event.

ADA Educational Day: July 26th

On Monday, July 26th at the State Capitol, there will be a series of workshops and trainings on various disability topics for employers on working with people with disabilities. Additionally, the Iowa Department of Human Services will hold a workshop and public forum on a new mental health plan for Iowa.

Voices of the ADA: Use of Public Stories

While started as a newspaper article campaign facilitated by AmeriCorps VISTA member, Shawna Anderson, to introduce the public to people with disabilities, agencies and groups throughout Iowa can submit articles to their local media regarding the personal stories of those who have a disability or work on behalf of the disability community. Iowa Civil Rights Commission Executive Director, Ralph Rosenberg, says of this project, "Almost on a daily basis, I encounter both members of the general public and professionals in our field, who may not be familiar with state civil rights law and procedures. Plus, I continue to meet people who want to learn more about civil rights of persons with disabilities. I am confident that the newspaper project will allow for the sharing of information regarding disability rights laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act." For more information, please contact Shawna at Shawna.Anderson@iowa.gov. or see the Voices of the ADA page on the ADA Iowa website.



Member Agencies

Iowa Civil Rights Commission

Iowa Department of
Human Rights

Ames Human Relations

Bettendorf Human Rights

Burlington Human Rights

Cedar Falls Human Rights

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights

Coralville Human Rights

Council Bluffs Civil Rights

Davenport Civil Rights

Decorah Human Rights

Des Moines Human Rights

Dubuque Human Rights

Fort Dodge Human Rights

Fort Madison Human Rights

Grinnell Human Rights

Iowa City Human Rights

Johnson County Human
Rights

Keokuk Human Rights

Marshalltown Human Rights

Mason City Human Rights

Mount Pleasant Human
Rights

Muscatine Human Rights

Ottumwa Human Rights

Sioux City Human Rights

Urbandale Civil Rights



The Americans with Disabilities Act, as Amended (ADA)

July 26, 2010 marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA provides civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those afforded to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. This piece of legislation ensures equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, transportation, State and local government services, and telecommunications. The 2008 Amendments to the ADA, signed into law on September 25, 2008, describes in more detail who is covered by the civil rights protections of the ADA. The amendments expands the definition of "disability" to include impairments that substantially limit a major life activity and states that when determining whether some one qualifies as disabled, one cannot take into account assistive devices, auxiliary aids, accommodations, medical therapies and supplies. The amendments also address episodic or disabilities that may go into remission but still can significantly limit a major life activity when active, like epilepsy and post traumatic stress disorder. To learn more about the ADA and its amendments or to read the full text of the ADA, please visit www.ada.gov or www.disability.gov.

Additional Ideas on How You Can Celebrate the ADA

What Else Can You Do? (Please visit the ADA Iowa website for more ideas)

- Conduct an accessibility survey of part or all of your community
- Display artwork in public places created by Iowans with disabilities.
- Invite a speaker to talk about the ADA or issues related to disabilities, such as universal design, living with cancer, reasonable accommodations in the workplace, or special education initiatives for schools.
- Create a YouTube video describing why the Americans with Disabilities Act is significant to you.
- Submit articles and letters to the editor to your organization's newsletter or community newspaper.
- Place a link to the ADA Iowa website on your website or social networking site like Facebook.
- Join the 2010 by 2010 Campaign at <http://www.2010anniversary.org/>

This newsletter was created and published by Iowa Human & Civil Rights VISTA Project members with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission for the League of Iowa Human & Civil Rights Agencies. The League is a statewide organization of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission (ICRC), the Iowa Department of Human Rights and all the local civil and human rights commissions in the State of Iowa. The League receives assistance from the Iowa Human & Civil Rights VISTA Project.

<http://www.leagueofiowahumanrights.webs.com/>

<http://www.iowavistaproject.webs.com/>

<http://www.ada-iowa.webs.com/>